

Wynton Marsalis opens Pro-Musica's season

El Paso Pro-Musica will ignite the senses with a 2018-2019 season filled with Grammy-winning and nominated performers, and chamber and classical events mixed with a fusion of jazz and popular sounds.

The season kicks off with the incomparable nine-time Grammy Award-winning jazz artist Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 6, at First Baptist Church of El Paso. This special concert will feature the music of the incomparable Duke Ellington. Marsalis and the JLCO will come to El Paso on a tour through the Southwest, including the Mesa Arts Center, Tucson and Lubbock. Marsalis is the first and only musical artist to receive Grammys for work in both classical and jazz categories.

"Wynton Marsalis devotes much of his time and energy to educate students, creating a love of music for future generations. He is the perfect fit for this Season's Special Concert Event," said Zuill Bailey, Grammy Award-winning Artistic Director of El Paso Pro-Musica.

Bailey, an internationally renowned cellist, is beginning his 17th Season with El Paso Pro-Musica. This season the organization is dedicated to education; guest artists visiting El Paso will spend countless hours in the classroom and work to help students establish careers in the 21st Century in the Arts through UTEP's Center for Arts Entrepreneurship.

This commitment will continue with the 4th annual Young Artist Development Series in collaboration with Johns Hopkins University and the Peabody School of Music. This year, it will feature outstanding young percussionists, "Mitten3" from Peabody, who will come to El Paso Nov. 5-10 for a residency. The residency will include appearances at schools and pop-up performances, and family performances Thursday, Nov. 8, at NMSU's Atkinson Music Recital Hall in Las Cruces, and Friday, Nov. 9, at UTEP's Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall.

Another show-stopping event for Pro-Musica this season is a "one night only" performance by the nine-time Grammy Award winning Emerson String Quartet at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 29, at First Baptist Church. The ensemble has been performing for more than 40 years, and has amassed an unparalleled list of achievements and more than 30 acclaimed recordings. Their Grammy wins include two for Best Classical Album. They have also won three Gramophone Awards, the Avery Fisher Prize, Musical America's "Ensemble of the Year" and have collaborated with many of the greatest artists of modern time.

Critics nationwide have given stellar reviews of their performances. The Seattle Times said they command a "certain reverence" from music lovers: "Its polished and authoritative per-

formances, its comprehensive and mighty discography, its fearless embrace of the new and unusual as well as the classics — all have placed this string quartet high in the pantheon of chamber music."

The 2019 El Paso Pro-Musica Chamber Music Festival in January will feature some of the world's biggest classical music stars, including the return of pianist Yuliya Gorenman and "Break of Reality," an innovative cello/percussive group that covers the theme song for the HBO hit TV series "Game of Thrones"

Free "Bach's Lunch" performances will continue each Thursday at noon at the El Paso Museum of Art during the festival. Bailey will also be the guest artist for the El Paso Symphony Orchestra collaboration concert, performing the Dvorak Cello Concerto Jan. 18-19 at the Plaza Theatre.

A special "Afternoon with Zuill Bailey" event is 2 p.m. Jan. 20 at UTEP's Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall.

The Vega String Quartet and William Ransom perform Jan. 10-13, with Gorenman performing Jan. 24-27 at venues in both El Paso and Las Cruces, including UTEP, NMSU and Star City Studios.

"Break of Reality" performances end the festival Friday, Feb. 1, at the Rio Grande Theatre in Las Cruces, and Saturday, Feb. 2, at UTEP's Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall.

The season will continue with additional educational residencies, a tribute to the music composed during the Holocaust in a special presentation by Dr. Melissa Kraut, the head of the Cello Division of the Cleveland Institute of Music.

Kraut's residency will run Feb. 18-21, with performances at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 20, at NMSU's Atkinson Recital Hall in Las Cruces, and Thursday, Feb. 21, at UTEP's Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall.

The two-time Grammy nominated Lincoln Trio will close out the season with performances at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 17, at UTEP's Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall, and Thursday, April 18, at NMSU's Atkinson Recital Hall.

Considered one of the "hottest trios in the business," the ensemble was formed in 2003 and consists of violinist Desirée Ruhstrat, cellist David Cunliffe and pianist Marta Aznavoorian. Their latest CD, "Trio's From Our Homelands," was nominated for a 2017 Grammy in the Best Chamber Music/Small Ensemble Performance Category.

Season tickets for 2018-2019 are \$200 (\$160 senior and military, \$40 student) for El Paso shows; \$100 (\$80 senior, military; \$20 student) for Las Cruces shows; \$300 (\$240 senior, military; \$60 student) for all shows.

For individual tickets and more information on Pro-Musica and its season, call 747-8163 or visit eppm.org.

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UTEP Flute Studio Recital — 5 p.m. Friday, **Dec. 7**, at Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall. Ticket information: 747-5606.

'Life and Beth' — No Strings Theater Company presents the play by Alan Ayckbourn, directed by Autumn Gieb, **Dec. 7-23** at the Black Box Theater, 430 N. Main in Las Cruces. Information: (575) 523-1223 or no-strings.org.

Handel's Messiah — El Paso Choral Society's Chorale and Orchestra, conducted by Prentice Loftin, hosts the holiday performance at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, **Dec. 8**, at the Abraham Chavez Theatre. Information: 259-4999.

'A Christmas Carol en la Frontera' — The UTEP Department of Theatre and Dance presents an original adaptation by Jay Stratton & Adriana Dominguez of Charles Dickens' classic **Dec. 8-16** in UTEP's Fox Fine Arts Wise Family Theatre. Directed by Stratton, choreographed by Leanne Rinelli. This holiday ghost story is filled with thrills and chills, but more than yuletide spectacle, it is a tale of family, solitude, and redemption, with the unique flavor of the border region. Showtime is 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9 and 16, and 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14. Ticket information: 747-5118, theatredance.utep.edu or on Facebook.

'Finding Neverland' — Broadway in El Paso presents the audience Choice Award for Best Musical, based on the Academy Award winning film, Tuesday and Wednesday, **Dec. 11-12**, at the Plaza Theatre. It tells the story behind one of the world's most beloved characters: "Peter Pan." Playwright J.M. Barrie struggles to find inspiration until he meets four young brothers and their beautiful widowed mother. Spellbound by the boys' enchanting make-believe adventures, he sets out to write a play that will astound London theatergoers. Ticket information: 231-1111, ElPasoLive.com/Broadway or on Facebook at Broadway in El Paso.

'The Nutcracker' — Tchaikovsky's Christmas classic featuring Ruidoso's Dalí Ballet Company is 2 and 7 p.m. Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday, **Dec. 22-23** at Spencer Theater in Alto, N.M. Tickets: \$30. Information: (888) 818-7872, (575) 336-4800 or spencertheater.com.

'Christmas Wonderland' Holiday Spectacular — Broadway in El Paso brings Santa and his merry helpers take audiences on an unforgettable nostalgic journey Saturday, **Dec. 29**, at the Plaza Theatre, with holiday favorites like "White Christmas," "Winter Wonderland," "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," "The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting)," "Jingle Bells," "Away in a Manger," "O Come All Ye Faithful," "Let it Snow," "Silent Night," "Hark the Herald Angels Sing," "Deck The Halls," "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree," "O Holy Night" and more. Show time to be announced. Ticket information: 231-1111, ElPasoLive.com/Broadway or on Facebook at Broadway in El Paso.

January

El Paso Pro-Musica Chamber Music Festival — El Paso Pro-Musica presents its annual festival **Jan. 10-Feb. 2** at various venues in El Paso and Las Cruces. Tickets to individual performances are \$25; \$20 seniors, military; \$5 youth. Free Bach's Lunch performances are noon each Thursday at El Paso Museum of Art. Information: 747-8163 or eppm.org.

This year's performers include Vega String

Quartet, pianist William Ransom, pianist Yuliya Gorenman performing Bach's "Well-Tempered Clavier," and rock cello ensemble Break the Reality who has covered such songs as the Theme Song from HBO's hit show "Game of Thrones."

Pro-Musica's own Grammy Award-winning cellist Zuill Bailey will perform the Dvořák Cello Concerto **Jan. 18-19** in the annual collaboration with EPSO at the Plaza Theatre.

'The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee' — Kids-N-Co. presents the musical conceived by Rebecca Feldman, with additional material by Jay Reiss, music by William Finn and book by Rachel Sheinkin **Jan. 11-27**, at First Presbyterian Church, directed by Anthony Michael Stokes. Shows are 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday. Tickets: \$7 (\$5 children, students, senior citizens, military), available at the door. Information: 274-8797 or on Facebook.

EPSO: 'Bailey Plays Dvořák' — El Paso Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Bohuslav Rattay, presents cellist Zuill Bailey, at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, **Jan. 18-19**, in the Plaza Theatre, in collaboration with El Paso Pro-Musica's Chamber Music Festival. Selections include Brahms' Symphony No. 2 in D major, op. 73, and Dvořák's Cello Concerto in B minor, op. 104. Tickets: \$16-\$45; \$9 and \$11 for students (Ticketmaster).

'And the Winner Is' — **Jan. 18-27** at El Paso Playhouse, 2501 Montana. Information: 532-1317 or elpasoplayhouse.com.

Vocal Trash — Grant County Community Concert Association presents the "Glee meets Stomp" style performance at 7 p.m. Thursday, **Jan 24**, at WNMU Fine Arts Auditorium in Silver City. Tickets: \$20. Information: (575) 538-5862 or gconcerts.org.

'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time' — No Strings Theater Company presents the play based on the novel by Mark Haddon, adapted by Simon Stephens and directed by Ceil Herman, **Jan. 25-Feb. 10** at the Black Box Theater, 430 N. Main, Las Cruces. Information: (575) 523-1223 or no-strings.org.

Vocal Trash — Showtime! El Paso presents the urban-themed Broadway style production that performs on custom instruments made from recycled materials 7 p.m. Friday, **Jan. 25**, at the Abraham Chavez Theatre. Individual tickets to be announced. Information: 247-2726, Events@showtimeelpaso.com or showtimeelpaso.com.

Robin Spielberg — The celebrated pianist performs at 7 p.m. Friday, **Jan. 25**, at Flickinger Center for Performing Arts in Alamogordo. Tickets: \$9, \$15 and \$20. Information: (575) 437-2202 or flickinger-center.com.

'Disney's Newsies' — UTEP Dinner Theatre, in the UTEP Student Union West building, presents the hit musical based on the Disney movie **Jan. 25-Feb. 3**, with Tony Award-winning score by Alan Menken and Jack Feldman, and book by Tony Award winner Harvey Fierstein. Set in turn-of-the-century New York City, "Newsies" tells the rousing tale of Jack Kelly, a charismatic newsboy and leader of a band of teenaged "newsies." When titans of publishing raise distribution prices at the newsboys' expense, Jack rallies newsies from across the city to strike for what's right. Featuring many now classic songs including

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